

Mr. Joe Borg  
Commissioner for Maritime Affairs and Fisheries  
European Commission  
B-1049 Brussels

Brussels, 10 August 2009

Dear Commissioner Borg,

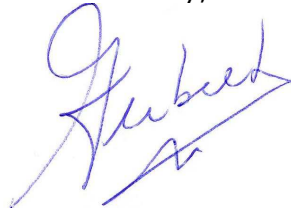
**Re: Progress report and ways forward for an Integrated Maritime Policy**

The environmental NGO networks which work for the protection of the marine environment in Europe's regional sea basins (the Baltic, Black and Mediterranean Seas and the North-East Atlantic Ocean) were pleased to hear that the European Commission will conduct a review of the implementation of the Integrated Maritime Policy Action Plan and propose ways to take this policy forward.

The networks participating in the European Seas Environmental Cooperation (ESEC) believe that the Integrated Maritime Policy process may bring benefits in the protection and restoration of Europe's marine environment. However, such benefits will only come about if indeed the marine environment is put at the heart of the Integrated Maritime Policy.

In the document attached, ESEC has noted down some ideas which we believe would help steer the Integrated Maritime Policy towards a more sustainable route. We hope your services can take these ideas into consideration when making proposals for the future of this policy, and we look forward to the publication of the progress report.

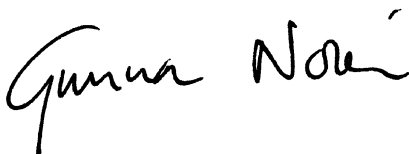
Yours sincerely,



Dr. Monica Verbeek  
Executive Director, Seas At Risk



Prof. Dan Manoleli  
President, Black Sea NGO Network



Gunnar Norén  
Executive Secretary,  
Coalition Clean Baltic



Prof. Michael Scoullas  
Chairman, Mediterranean Information  
Office for Environment, Culture and  
Sustainable Development

ESEC is a cooperation between the Black Sea NGO Network, Coalition Clean Baltic, the Mediterranean Information Office for Environment, Culture and Sustainable Development, and Seas At Risk

